

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 998

By Byrd

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Butterfly
Foundation of Wayne County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing those estimable organizations that are devoted to improving the lives of young people in this State; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is the Butterfly Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity that provides financial assistance to families in Middle Tennessee who have children with life-threatening or life-altering illnesses; and

WHEREAS, located in Wayne County, the Butterfly Foundation was established in November 2007 in honor of Ryleigh Merece Stegall, a ten-year-old who passed away after her long battle with acute lymphocytic leukemia; the foundation's name was inspired by her love of and fascination with butterflies; and

WHEREAS, currently in its fifteenth year of operation, the Butterfly Foundation receives contributions from local businesses, organizations, and citizens to serve children and their families in Wayne and surrounding counties in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one hundred percent of all donations and monies received by the Butterfly Foundation are given to eligible families; as of January 2022, the foundation had raised more than \$900,000, which benefited more than 348 children; and

WHEREAS, the foundation sponsors a host of awareness activities and fundraisers, including Butterfly Coloring Contests for children in first through fifth grades in Wayne County Schools and Ryleigh's Walk, which takes place in schools throughout Wayne County each fall; and

WHEREAS, the foundation's flagship fundraising event is the Annual Butterfly 5K Run/Walk, which occurs on the first Saturday of June; this event has grown to include approximately 500 runners each year, and it raised \$95,000 in 2021 alone; and

WHEREAS, two illustrated books inspired by Ryleigh Merece Stegall and the Butterfly Foundation have been published, *Ryleigh Joins the BFF* and *Ryleigh's Magic Leaves*; and

WHEREAS, the Butterfly Foundation has been wholly devoted to lightening the burden of families of children with life-threatening or life-altering illnesses for one-and-a-half decades; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we recognize one of this State's most exemplary charitable organizations at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the Butterfly Foundation of Wayne County for its compassionate service to families throughout Middle Tennessee, extending our deepest gratitude for the foundation's important work and our best wishes for its continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.